(iii) Staff have been briefed to prolong the conversation with the caller to facilitate tracing.

Bell Jet Ranger Helicopter installed under UNDP

2104. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Bell Jet Ranger Helicopter VT-DIP was installed under the United Nations Development Programme for conducting survey of forest resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been any agreement to transfer this helicopter from Vayudoot to M/s. Aparna Aviation on payment of rupees one lakh;

(d) if so, what are the terms on which it has been given to M/s. Aparna Aviation and in what manner the balance amount will be recovered from the company;

(e) whether the Pawan Hans Limited had demanded this helicopter before the agreement with M/s. Aparna Aviation; and

(f) if so, what are the reasons for not giving it to the Pawan Hans Limited?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Bell Jet Ranger helicopter VT-DIP was received by the Government of India under United Nations Development Programme assistance for pre-investment survey of forest resources. On completion of the project, the ownership of the helicopter was transferred in 1976 to the erstwhile Agro Aviation Division in the Ministry of Agriculture. The Agro Aviation Division was subsequently transferred to Vayudoot Limited. Accordingly, the helicopter came to Vayudoot.

(c) and (d) An agreement was signed between Vayudoot and M/s Aparna Aviation Pvt. Ltd. on 30th May, 1991 for the latter to take the helicopter on lease for one year. An advance of Rs. one lakh was received from the company. But the arrangement did not materialise due to premature failure in the engine of the helicopter. M/s Aparna Aviation was informed accordingly and the advance received was returned. No amount has to be recovered from them.

(e) and (f) Pawan Hans Ltd. requested Vayudoot for wet lease of helicopter but by that time Vayudoot had entered into the aforesaid agreement with M/s Aparna Aviation.

Setting up of Offices by DGCA to Monitor Operation of Air Taxi Operator

2105. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Directorate General of Civil Aviation propose to set up offices in New Delhi and Bombay to monitor the operations of the air-taxi operators;

(b) if so, what are the details about the functions of these offices;

(c) the names of other places where these offices are likely to be set up; and

(d) whether airworthiness of the aircrafts deployed by the taxi operators and safety aspects of these operations will be checked before these aircrafts are put into operation, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) DGCA has offices at 14 places in India. These offices exercise regulatory control over airworthiness, operational and other related matters. Besides, two Safety Audit Teams have been constituted at Bombay and Delhi to conduct inspection of matters relating to air safety, security and maintenance of air taxis. These two teams carry out inspections not only at Delhi and Bombay but at other places also.

(d) Airworthiness and safety aspects of aircraft deployed by Air Taxi Operators are already being checked by the regulatory authority. Only aircraft having certificate of airworthiness are allowed to fly.

Issue of No Objection Certificate to Jet Airways

2106. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the MINISTER of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a No Objection Certificate to Jet Airways to operate as an air taxi operator;

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions;

(c) whether Jet Airways propose to have a tie up with Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways if so, on what terms and conditions; and